

# *Sketch*

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## Night Breeze

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# NIGHT BREEZE

*by*  
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*English/Speech Pathology 2*

Eight and a half million people live  
in Mexico City

yet the only person to  
help the sick, homeless lady  
(who sleeps on the cool-curbed  
pavement where VW taxis whiz by  
sucking candy bar papers behind  
back wheels all night long)  
is an old man, sick and homeless  
himself

with his hand cane he pushes  
and plods along the  
still sidewalk suddenly  
noticing her alone . . . somehow  
asleep  
in spite of the night chill . . .  
as he curiously creeps on by her  
taking careful little baby-steps  
toward a large piece  
of dirt brown cardboard  
tumbling a little ahead of him  
in the breeze

until he catches it by frayed  
edges-returning with it held tight  
as he peers into the lady's face  
(which is seemingly content with the  
cool nightfall)  
and then, placing the cardboard  
over her stiffly sleeping body  
he makes her swollen tree-bark  
fingers  
clutch it for a blanket in the  
night breeze

and with his hand cane he  
resumes  
his walk along sad city sidewalks and  
ebony night breeze,  
shuffling to the barrios wherein  
(my father once answered me)  
seventy-year-old  
no good winos  
waste their worthless lives away.